

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 are pending and under consideration. Reconsideration is requested based on the following remarks.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102:

Claims 1-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Anderson et al., US 5,581,682 (hereinafter "Anderson"). The rejection is traversed.

According to at least one embodiment of the invention, a document which is to be opened to the public, but which contains information that should be hidden, may be processed or edited automatically into content which is appropriate for disclosing to the public.

In at least one embodiment, non-disclosure information for managing character strings which should not be made public and reasons for their not being made public are stored in a dictionary in such a manner as to correspond to each other. Character strings that should be forcedly made public and reasons for being forcedly made public are also stored in a dictionary in such a manner as to correspond to each other. A non-disclosure tag, reasons for not being made public, a forcedly disclosing tag, and reasons for being forcedly made public are embedded in the document, and each character string assigned with a non-disclosure tag is replaced with a meaningless character string when the document is processed or edited automatically into content which is appropriate for disclosing to the public.

Claims 1 and 5, in particular, recite,

"an auxiliary storage unit storing a dictionary which contains said at least one character string of non-disclosure in association with at least one corresponding reason."

Anderson, on the other hand, neither teaches, discloses, nor suggests "an auxiliary storage unit storing a dictionary which contains said at least one character string of non-disclosure in association with at least one corresponding reason," as recited in claims 1 and 5. As Anderson, rather, describes at column 5, lines 44-57,

The method of the invention uses the forms overlay structures in order to store the data. The reference structure within the document is extended to contain specific information describing the referenced object as an annotation object, and providing an annotation level associated with this object. The overlay object is extended to provide the control information specifying whether this overlay is to be merged in a transparent or opaque manner when applying the page. Since annotation overlays usually apply to a single page, as opposed to form overlays which are typically applicable to all instances of a particular page type, the overlays are contained within the structure of the page to which they apply,

removing the need to manage the annotation.

Thus, Anderson uses the forms overlay structures in order to store the data. This is to be contrasted with claims 1 and 5, which recite, "an auxiliary storage unit storing a dictionary which contains said at least one character string of non-disclosure in association with at least one corresponding reason."

Claims 1 and 5 recite further,

"embedding a tag and the reason of non-disclosure corresponding to the character string in the document."

Anderson neither teaches, discloses, nor suggests "embedding a tag and the reason of non-disclosure corresponding to the character string in the document," as recited in claims 1 and 5, either. In Anderson, rather, the reference structure within the document is extended to contain specific information describing the referenced object as an annotation object, and providing an annotation level associated with this object.

Finally, claims 1 and 5 recite,

"replacing the character string to which the tag of non-disclosure is given to a meaningless character string, when the document is accessed."

Anderson neither teaches, discloses, nor suggests "replacing the character string to which the tag of non-disclosure is given to a meaningless character string, when the document is accessed," as recited in claims 1 and 5, either. In Anderson, rather, the overlays are contained within the structure of the page to which they apply, removing the need to manage the annotation. Claims 1 and 5 are thus submitted to be allowable. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 and 5 is earnestly solicited.

Claims 2 and 6 depend from claims 1 and 5, respectively, and add further distinguishing elements. Claims 2 and 6 are thus also submitted to be allowable. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2 and 6 is earnestly solicited.

Claims 3 and 4:

Claim 3 recites,

"a dictionary which manages a character string of compulsory disclosure attaching with its corresponding reason."

Anderson neither teaches, discloses, nor suggests "a dictionary which manages a

character string of compulsory disclosure attaching with its corresponding reason," as discussed above with respect to the rejection of claim 1.

Claims 3 recite further,

"embedding the tag and the reason of non-disclosure corresponding to the character string in the document."

Anderson neither teaches, discloses, nor suggests "embedding the tag and the reason of non-disclosure corresponding to the character string in the document," as discussed above with respect to the rejection of claim 1.

Finally, claim 3 recites,

"replacing the character string which the tag of non-disclosure is given to a meaningless character string."

Anderson neither teaches, discloses, nor suggests "replacing the character string to which the tag of non-disclosure is given to a meaningless character string," as discussed above with respect to the rejection of claim 1. Claim 3 is thus submitted to be allowable for at least those reasons discussed above with respect to the rejection of claim 1. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 3 is earnestly solicited.

Claim 4 depends from claims 3 and adds further distinguishing elements. Claim 4 is thus also submitted to be allowable. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 4 is earnestly solicited.

Conclusion:

Accordingly, in view of the reasons given above, it is submitted that all of claims 1-6 are allowable over the cited references. There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

Serial No. 10/749,377

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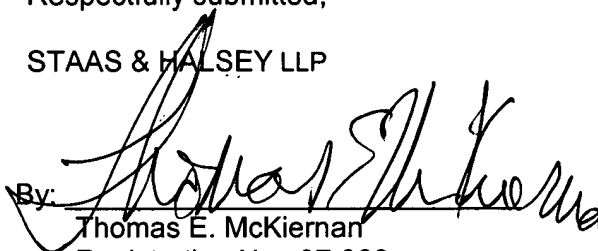
Respectfully submitted,

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